

P-421/EM-95-496

ORDER APPROVING INTRODUCTION OF 500 ACCESS SERVICE TO WIRELESS
CARRIERS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joel Jacobs
Tom Burton
Marshall Johnson
Dee Knaak
Don Storm

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of U S West Communications,
Inc.'s Introduction of 500 Access Service

ISSUE DATE: October 9, 1995

DOCKET NO. P-421/EM-95-496

ORDER APPROVING INTRODUCTION OF
500 ACCESS SERVICE TO WIRELESS
CARRIERS

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 16, 1995, U S West Communications, Inc. (USWC or the Company) filed a proposal to introduce 500 Access Service.

On June 16, 1995, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) submitted comments recommending approval of the proposal.

On June 26, 1995, AT&T filed an objection to USWC's classification of 500 Access Service as a new service listed as emergingly competitive under Minn. Stat. § 237.60, subd. 2(f).

On August 28, 1995, USWC revised its proposal, moving 500 Access Service from the price list to a tariff.

On September 26, 1995, the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. USWC's Proposed Service

The base service involved in this filing is 500 service. Commonly referred to as Personal Communications Service (PCS), 500 service is an individualized telecommunications service that lets people or devices communicate regardless of where they are. In short, 500 service

provides an end-user with a personal telephone number rather than a location-specific telephone number.

What USWC proposes in this docket is 500 *Access* Service, consisting of originating access, interconnection, and routing function. This access service allows the wireless carriers (Commercial Mobile Radio Carriers and Private Mobile Radio Carriers) to offer 500 service to their customers. The 500 Access Service proposed by USWC is an originating, trunk-side Type 2A access and interconnection service. It relies upon the translation of the 500-NXX digits to identify and deliver the traffic to the appropriate wireless carrier.

B. Proposed Rates

USWC stated that the non-recurring and recurring rates proposed for the 500 Access Service are the same as those filed with the Federal Communications Commission.

The Department stated that the rate elements proposed by USWC correspond well with the functions performed in providing access, interconnection, and routing instructions to the wireless carriers utilizing Type 2A interconnection to provide 500 service to their end users. The recurring rate elements identified by the Department were:

- carrier identification charge,
- local end office switching charge,
- carrier common line charge, interconnection charge,
- tandem switching charge, and
- tandem transport charge.

The Department noted that all of the proposed rates exceed the estimated incremental costs, thereby providing reasonable contribution to USWC's joint and common costs.

The Commission has reviewed the proposed rates, finds them reasonable, and will approve them.

C. Status of the Proposed Service

In its initial proposal, USWC classified 500 Access Service as an emergingly competitive service pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 237.60, subd. 2 (f) and, as such, proposed to place the service in the Price List. Rates changes for services in the price list (emergingly competitive services) may be changed with less regulatory oversight than other services, which are placed in tariffs.

In its June 16, 1995 comments, the Department reported that it had informed USWC that while the identification and routing of 500 service calls are unique and new, the access and interconnection arrangements are neither unique nor new. The Department indicated that it would be more appropriate to remove the rate elements representing the traditional switched access service from the Price List and reference them in the Tariff. The Department reported that USWC had agreed to remove the 500 access service in its entirety from the Price List and

place its in the Tariff.

On June 26, 1995, AT&T also objected to USWC's classification of the service as emergingly competitive. AT&T disputed USWC's classification on the following grounds:

- the service is not a new service offered after August 1, 1994;
- the service is "integrally related to the provision of adequate local service or access to the telephone network;" and
- the service does not satisfy the definition of emerging competition.

The Commission has reviewed USWC's revised Tariff filed August 28, 1995. Although no letter accompanied the filing, USWC has clearly removed the 500 Access Service from the Price List and placed it on the Tariff, signifying its agreement with the Department and AT&T that the service is not an emergingly competitive service. The Commission finds this revision appropriate and will approve it.

ORDER

1. U S West Communications, Inc.'s (USWC's or the Company's) proposal to provide 500 Access Service to wireless carriers (at rates proposed in its initial filing and tariffed as revised in its August 28, 1995 filing) is approved.
2. The tariff submitted for USWC's 500 Access Service on August 28, 1995 is approved.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)